



**California State Fire Marshal**  
**National Fire Incident Reporting System**

**Data as of:** 01/28/2008 3:49:56PM

**Incident Date Range:**  
01/01/2003 to 12/31/2007

**FDID Range:**  
0 to No Upper Bound

**Incident Type:**  
130 to 138

### Vehicle Fires By Cause, 2003-2007

<u>Incident Year</u>	<u>Primary Factor Contributing To Ignition</u>	<u>Incident Count</u>	<u>Property Losses</u>	<u>Contents Losses</u>	<u>Fire Service Injuries</u>	<u>Fire Service Deaths</u>	<u>Civilian Injuries</u>	<u>Civilian Deaths</u>
2003	Abandoned or discarded materials or products	97	\$151,477	\$30,800	0	0	0	0
	Accidentally turned on, not turned off	3	\$30,200	\$5,000	0	0	0	0
	Animal	3	\$0	\$0	0	0	0	0
	Arc from faulty contact, broken conductor	20	\$31,530	\$301	0	0	0	0
	Arc, spark from operating equipment	52	\$152,100	\$27,575	0	0	0	0
	Automatic control failure	24	\$36,700	\$800	0	0	0	0
	Backfire	146	\$238,640	\$18,780	1	0	2	0
	Collision, knock down, run over, turn over	90	\$1,288,450	\$57,000	0	0	4	8
	Cutting, welding too close to combustible	20	\$20,600	\$0	0	0	0	0
	Design deficiency	5	\$0	\$1,500	0	0	0	0
	Design/Manufacture/Installation Deficiency, other	7	\$13,000	\$500	0	0	0	0
	Electrical failure, malfunction, other	344	\$890,053	\$39,000	0	0	0	0
	Equipment not being operated properly	31	\$78,650	\$47,200	0	0	1	0
	Equipment overloaded	15	\$43,002	\$0	0	0	0	0
	Equipment unattended	13	\$128,500	\$9,000	1	0	0	0

## Vehicle Fires By Cause, 2003-2007

<u>Incident Year</u>	<u>Primary Factor Contributing To Ignition</u>	<u>Incident Count</u>	<u>Property Losses</u>	<u>Contents Losses</u>	<u>Fire Service Injuries</u>	<u>Fire Service Deaths</u>	<u>Civilian Injuries</u>	<u>Civilian Deaths</u>
	Equipment used for not intended purpose	2	\$600	\$0	0	0	0	0
	Exposure fire	204	\$604,790	\$91,550	0	0	0	0
	Failure to clean	25	\$79,000	\$300	0	0	0	0
	Fire spread or control, other	12	\$61,500	\$30,650	0	0	1	0
	Flammable liquid or gas spilled	103	\$228,550	\$6,300	1	0	0	1
	Flammable liquid used to kindle fire	38	\$135,500	\$3,410	0	0	0	0
	Fluorescent light ballast	1	\$300	\$0	0	0	0	0
	Heat source too close to combustibles.	99	\$196,180	\$74,500	0	0	1	0
	High wind	1	\$0	\$0	0	0	0	0
	Improper container or storage	14	\$8,850	\$350	0	0	0	0
	Improper fuel used	2	\$1,500	\$0	0	0	0	0
	Improper fueling technique	28	\$9,600	\$1,850	0	0	3	0
	Improper startup	6	\$14,950	\$4,000	0	0	0	0
	Installation deficiency	30	\$96,150	\$2,200	0	0	0	0
	Leak or break	1,157	\$3,095,034	\$387,833	1	0	6	0
	Manual control failure	10	\$8,500	\$2,100	0	0	0	0
	Manufacturing deficiency	1	\$1,042	\$0	0	0	0	0
	Mechanical failure, malfunction, other	1,180	\$3,601,306	\$563,870	4	0	3	1
	Misuse of material or product, other	51	\$120,700	\$8,500	0	0	1	0
	Natural condition, other	8	\$12,800	\$500	0	0	0	0
	None	4,221	\$15,427,143	\$1,316,848	8	0	22	12

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	Operational deficiency, other	42	\$85,500	\$6,800	0	0	0	0
	Other factor contributed to ignition	222	\$1,296,130	\$92,205	1	0	3	4
	Outside/open fire for debris or waste disposal	3	\$5,500	\$10	0	0	0	0
	Outside/open fire for warming or cooking	1	\$0	\$0	0	0	0	0
	Playing with heat source	12	\$21,010	\$2,550	0	0	1	0
	Rekindle	5	\$1,500	\$0	0	0	0	0
	Short circuit arc from defective, worn insulation	137	\$214,235	\$51,951	0	0	1	0
	Short circuit arc from mechanical damage	89	\$503,400	\$8,360	0	0	0	1
	Undetermined	720	\$3,210,067	\$319,452	2	0	4	0
	Unspecified short-circuit arc	345	\$1,196,263	\$79,113	0	0	0	0
	Washing part, painting with flammable liquid	2	\$1,500	\$0	0	0	0	0
	Water caused short-circuit arc	3	\$9,000	\$0	0	0	0	0
	Worn out	189	\$361,953	\$13,652	0	0	0	0
	<b>2003 Total</b>	<b>9,833</b>	<b>\$33,712,955</b>	<b>\$3,306,310</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>2004</b>	Abandoned or discarded materials or products	139	\$290,775	\$38,372	0	0	1	0
	Accidentally turned on, not turned off	10	\$94,500	\$700	0	0	1	0
	Agriculture or land management burns	1	\$1,000	\$2,600	0	0	0	0
	Animal	4	\$16,000	\$6,000	0	0	0	0
	Arc from faulty contact, broken conductor	31	\$26,650	\$1,650	0	0	0	0
	Arc, spark from operating equipment	45	\$102,340	\$6,491	0	0	0	0

## Vehicle Fires By Cause, 2003-2007

<u>Incident Year</u>	<u>Primary Factor Contributing To Ignition</u>	<u>Incident Count</u>	<u>Property Losses</u>	<u>Contents Losses</u>	<u>Fire Service Injuries</u>	<u>Fire Service Deaths</u>	<u>Civilian Injuries</u>	<u>Civilian Deaths</u>
	Automatic control failure	22	\$105,300	\$2,800	0	0	0	0
	Backfire	138	\$159,298	\$14,154	0	0	1	0
	Collision, knock down, run over, turn over	151	\$1,496,926	\$224,800	0	0	8	6
	Cutting, welding too close to combustible	25	\$45,411	\$26,701	1	0	0	0
	Design deficiency	6	\$30,500	\$0	0	0	0	0
	Design/Manufacture/Installation Deficiency, other	16	\$26,500	\$1,501	0	0	0	0
	Electrical failure, malfunction, other	543	\$12,750,045	\$829,978	0	0	2	0
	Equipment not being operated properly	45	\$228,201	\$41,300	0	0	0	0
	Equipment overloaded	25	\$77,000	\$13,600	0	0	0	0
	Equipment unattended	13	\$24,400	\$6,050	0	0	0	0
	Equipment used for not intended purpose	6	\$15,500	\$800	0	0	0	0
	Exposure fire	303	\$1,336,181	\$29,956	0	0	0	0
	Failure to clean	42	\$467,700	\$17,450	0	0	0	0
	Fire spread or control, other	13	\$21,000	\$1,900	0	0	0	0
	Flammable liquid or gas spilled	154	\$700,378	\$124,850	0	0	1	0
	Flammable liquid used to kindle fire	64	\$295,001	\$401	0	0	0	0
	Heat source too close to combustibles.	137	\$596,538	\$498,401	0	0	2	0
	High wind	1	\$0	\$0	0	0	0	0
	Improper container or storage	19	\$86,250	\$6,300	0	0	1	0
	Improper fuel used	4	\$5,000	\$0	0	0	0	0
	Improper fueling technique	37	\$43,910	\$6,025	0	0	4	0

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	Improper startup	2	\$0	\$0	0	0	0	0
	Installation deficiency	40	\$108,000	\$2,250	0	0	0	0
	Leak or break	1,350	\$5,031,359	\$271,535	2	0	10	1
	Manual control failure	15	\$155,500	\$18,500	0	0	0	0
	Manufacturing deficiency	1	\$400	\$0	0	0	0	0
	Mechanical failure, malfunction, other	1,693	\$7,850,920	\$1,104,660	0	0	4	1
	Misuse of material or product, other	102	\$409,000	\$51,900	1	0	2	0
	Natural condition, other	15	\$247,250	\$74,000	0	0	1	0
	None	5,988	\$24,974,421	\$1,640,257	2	0	9	2
	Operational deficiency, other	71	\$332,400	\$89,152	0	0	0	0
	Other factor contributed to ignition	425	\$2,856,295	\$272,572	0	0	4	1
	Outside/open fire for debris or waste disposal	9	\$28,500	\$3,000	0	0	0	0
	Outside/open fire for warming or cooking	1	\$0	\$0	0	0	0	0
	Playing with heat source	15	\$34,700	\$1,150	0	0	0	0
	Rekindle	7	\$50,000	\$2,200	0	0	0	0
	Short circuit arc from defective, worn insulation	170	\$1,155,010	\$40,480	0	0	0	0
	Short circuit arc from mechanical damage	120	\$392,350	\$16,402	0	0	1	0
	Storm	1	\$4,000	\$0	0	0	0	0
	Undetermined	1,175	\$5,622,090	\$1,035,064	3	0	6	0
	Unspecified short-circuit arc	496	\$1,748,764	\$191,681	0	0	3	0
	Volcanic action	1	\$0	\$0	0	0	0	0

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2004	Water caused short-circuit arc	5	\$7,950	\$12,350	0	0	0	0
	Worn out	267	\$368,618	\$65,322	0	0	0	0
	<b>2004 Total</b>	<b>13,963</b>	<b>\$70,419,831</b>	<b>\$6,795,255</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>11</b>
	Abandoned or discarded materials or products	290	\$971,302	\$436,622	0	0	0	0
	Accidentally turned on, not turned off	7	\$22,900	\$2,100	0	0	1	0
	Animal	5	\$3,100	\$50	0	0	0	0
	Arc from faulty contact, broken conductor	26	\$96,650	\$5,750	0	0	0	0
	Arc, spark from operating equipment	94	\$616,850	\$26,771	0	0	0	0
	Automatic control failure	23	\$75,100	\$46,901	0	0	0	0
	Backfire	199	\$256,569	\$12,077	0	0	0	0
2005	Collision, knock down, run over, turn over	261	\$2,820,677	\$854,204	1	0	26	16
	Construction deficiency	4	\$27,500	\$0	0	0	0	0
	Cutting, welding too close to combustible	41	\$112,602	\$29,804	0	0	0	0
	Design deficiency	4	\$1,250	\$0	0	0	0	0
	Design/Manufacture/Installation Deficiency, other	15	\$11,200	\$100	0	0	0	0
	Electrical failure, malfunction, other	835	\$3,000,602	\$158,104	1	0	3	0
	Equipment not being operated properly	63	\$131,250	\$34,183	0	0	0	0
	Equipment overloaded	30	\$32,000	\$3,300	0	0	0	0
	Equipment unattended	22	\$114,600	\$7,300	0	0	0	0
	Equipment used for not intended purpose	10	\$40,500	\$3,201	0	0	0	0

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	Exposure fire	422	\$2,830,676	\$172,814	0	0	2	1
	Failure to clean	55	\$824,390	\$55,271	0	0	2	0
	Fire spread or control, other	25	\$144,100	\$12,050	0	0	0	0
	Flammable liquid or gas spilled	288	\$1,494,074	\$90,411	0	0	8	3
	Flammable liquid used to kindle fire	159	\$1,167,940	\$35,152	0	0	1	0
	Heat source too close to combustibles.	343	\$1,716,752	\$208,408	0	0	4	1
	High wind	9	\$76,900	\$600	0	0	0	0
	Improper container or storage	33	\$257,050	\$82,750	0	0	1	0
	Improper fuel used	2	\$2,500	\$0	0	0	0	0
	Improper fueling technique	43	\$56,100	\$3,400	0	0	1	0
	Improper startup	7	\$9,000	\$2,000	0	0	0	0
	Installation deficiency	30	\$50,475	\$401	0	0	0	0
	Leak or break	1,417	\$4,910,940	\$456,395	0	0	9	1
	Manual control failure	13	\$20,050	\$6,300	0	0	0	0
	Manufacturing deficiency	7	\$27,300	\$6,000	0	0	0	0
	Mechanical failure, malfunction, other	2,198	\$9,092,219	\$676,196	0	0	5	0
	Misuse of material or product, other	183	\$568,265	\$108,060	0	0	6	1
	Natural condition, other	21	\$69,800	\$21,650	0	0	0	0
	None	5,117	\$21,015,790	\$1,304,358	4	0	14	5
	Operational deficiency, other	101	\$210,550	\$52,500	0	0	1	0
	Other factor contributed to ignition	524	\$4,107,997	\$646,303	0	0	2	4

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	Outside/open fire for debris or waste disposal	15	\$18,000	\$400	0	0	0	0
	Outside/open fire for warming or cooking	2	\$2,800	\$1,500	0	0	0	0
	Playing with heat source	31	\$61,800	\$4,251	0	0	1	0
	Rekindle	5	\$4,000	\$500	0	0	0	0
	Short circuit arc from defective, worn insulation	275	\$696,201	\$58,935	0	0	1	0
	Short circuit arc from mechanical damage	181	\$570,051	\$111,493	0	0	3	3
	Storm	1	\$2,000	\$0	0	0	0	0
	Undetermined	2,322	\$13,159,013	\$803,275	3	0	5	2
	Unspecified short-circuit arc	613	\$4,868,342	\$291,450	0	0	2	0
	Water caused short-circuit arc	10	\$26,500	\$600	0	0	0	0
	Worn out	322	\$613,960	\$52,243	0	0	1	0
<b>2005 Total</b>		<b>16,703</b>	<b>\$77,010,187</b>	<b>\$6,886,133</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>2006</b>								
	Abandoned or discarded materials or products	329	\$1,597,409	\$107,001	0	0	3	1
	Accidentally turned on, not turned off	6	\$56,800	\$5,500	0	0	0	0
	Agriculture or land management burns	3	\$1,000	\$500	0	0	0	0
	Animal	5	\$5,000	\$200	0	0	0	0
	Arc from faulty contact, broken conductor	26	\$96,010	\$3,960	0	0	1	0
	Arc, spark from operating equipment	70	\$502,100	\$37,001	0	0	1	0
	Automatic control failure	17	\$26,701	\$4,101	0	0	0	0
	Backfire	129	\$208,092	\$28,351	0	0	2	0



## Vehicle Fires By Cause, 2003-2007

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	Collision, knock down, run over, turn over	255	\$2,748,852	\$265,655	0	0	7	4
	Construction deficiency	2	\$10,100	\$900	0	0	0	0
	Cutting, welding too close to combustible	38	\$152,851	\$73,126	0	0	0	1
	Design deficiency	2	\$2,500	\$5,000	0	0	0	0
	Design/Manufacture/Installation Deficiency, other	14	\$310,100	\$19,000	0	0	0	0
	Electrical failure, malfunction, other	769	\$3,145,847	\$297,748	1	0	5	1
	Equipment not being operated properly	70	\$298,601	\$151,701	0	0	3	1
	Equipment overloaded	32	\$99,907	\$20,301	0	0	0	0
	Equipment unattended	44	\$383,246	\$17,950	0	0	0	0
	Equipment used for not intended purpose	11	\$14,510	\$900	0	0	0	0
	Exposure fire	454	\$4,087,209	\$691,687	0	0	1	0
	Failure to clean	59	\$231,551	\$6,606	0	0	1	0
	Fire spread or control, other	59	\$420,905	\$51,252	1	0	0	0
	Flammable liquid or gas spilled	327	\$1,801,000	\$153,110	0	0	5	3
	Flammable liquid used to kindle fire	214	\$1,865,726	\$196,703	0	0	0	0
	Heat source too close to combustibles.	387	\$1,541,474	\$297,975	1	0	5	0
	High wind	10	\$125,000	\$11,500	0	0	0	0
	Improper container or storage	43	\$248,740	\$23,875	0	0	3	0
	Improper fuel used	3	\$16,500	\$500	0	0	1	0
	Improper fueling technique	37	\$103,651	\$7,203	0	0	2	0
	Improper startup	14	\$133,700	\$6,150	0	0	0	0

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	Installation deficiency	30	\$60,545	\$7,460	0	0	0	0
	Leak or break	1,053	\$4,949,563	\$683,755	0	0	7	1
	Manual control failure	13	\$86,410	\$200	0	0	0	0
	Manufacturing deficiency	3	\$1,500	\$500	0	0	0	0
	Mechanical failure, malfunction, other	2,091	\$31,508,805	\$1,874,887	1	0	6	0
	Misuse of material or product, other	266	\$1,263,387	\$95,221	0	0	4	0
	Natural condition, other	37	\$156,246	\$156,351	0	0	0	0
	None	2,778	\$20,453,109	\$1,105,042	1	0	13	5
	Operational deficiency, other	97	\$574,106	\$235,166	0	0	0	0
	Other factor contributed to ignition	690	\$5,639,892	\$2,710,761	0	0	5	6
	Outside/open fire for debris or waste disposal	6	\$36,500	\$0	0	0	0	0
	Outside/open fire for warming or cooking	1	\$0	\$0	0	0	0	0
	Playing with heat source	45	\$136,012	\$8,700	0	0	0	0
	Rekindle	10	\$18,900	\$0	0	0	0	0
	Short circuit arc from defective, worn insulation	200	\$604,675	\$39,286	0	0	1	0
	Short circuit arc from mechanical damage	161	\$768,700	\$36,501	0	0	1	0
	Storm	1	\$4,000	\$0	0	0	0	0
	Undetermined	3,429	\$19,872,916	\$1,978,258	2	0	9	4
	Unspecified short-circuit arc	421	\$1,741,357	\$229,605	1	0	2	0
	Volcanic action	1	\$3,000	\$3,000	0	0	0	0
	Washing part, painting with flammable liquid	3	\$102,000	\$100	0	0	2	0

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2006	Water caused short-circuit arc	10	\$12,300	\$430	0	0	0	0
	Worn out	276	\$521,719	\$51,053	0	0	0	0
	<b>2006 Total</b>	<b>15,051</b>	<b>\$108,750,724</b>	<b>\$11,701,732</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>27</b>
	Abandoned or discarded materials or products	261	\$1,407,757	\$159,737	1	0	0	0
	Accidentally turned on, not turned off	7	\$9,000	\$2,410	0	0	0	0
	Arc from faulty contact, broken conductor	17	\$35,300	\$3,650	0	0	0	0
	Arc, spark from operating equipment	76	\$440,101	\$6,455	0	0	0	0
	Automatic control failure	21	\$138,200	\$8,001	0	0	0	0
	Backfire	116	\$351,131	\$40,352	0	0	3	0
	Collision, knock down, run over, turn over	221	\$3,241,275	\$535,906	0	0	4	7
2007	Construction deficiency	2	\$600	\$1,250	0	0	0	0
	Cutting, welding too close to combustible	23	\$36,802	\$253,052	0	0	0	0
	Design deficiency	8	\$28,100	\$450	0	0	1	0
	Design/Manufacture/Installation Deficiency, other	14	\$137,000	\$12,650	0	0	0	0
	Electrical failure, malfunction, other	700	\$3,878,396	\$440,549	1	0	1	0
	Equipment not being operated properly	63	\$368,851	\$15,501	0	0	0	0
	Equipment overloaded	16	\$28,000	\$2,600	0	0	0	0
	Equipment unattended	24	\$199,550	\$38,800	0	0	1	0
	Equipment used for not intended purpose	13	\$42,200	\$2,600	0	0	0	0
	Exposure fire	356	\$2,383,517	\$583,522	0	0	0	0

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	Failure to clean	37	\$53,775	\$701	0	0	0	0
	Fire spread or control, other	48	\$362,650	\$7,801	0	0	1	0
	Flammable liquid or gas spilled	243	\$1,847,475	\$69,073	0	0	2	0
	Flammable liquid used to kindle fire	165	\$1,315,500	\$69,304	0	0	0	0
	Heat source too close to combustibles.	333	\$1,718,920	\$151,985	1	0	4	0
	High wind	3	\$2,000	\$1,000	0	0	0	0
	Improper container or storage	23	\$84,450	\$18,850	0	0	0	0
	Improper fuel used	2	\$15,500	\$0	0	0	0	0
	Improper fueling technique	33	\$111,250	\$15,876	0	0	3	0
	Improper startup	7	\$9,600	\$2,001	0	0	0	0
	Installation deficiency	27	\$66,890	\$3,527	0	0	0	0
	Leak or break	812	\$3,982,867	\$260,533	1	0	5	0
	Manual control failure	17	\$120,200	\$6,850	0	0	0	0
	Manufacturing deficiency	2	\$6,200	\$500	0	0	0	0
	Mechanical failure, malfunction, other	1,626	\$11,853,043	\$2,578,395	1	0	4	0
	Misuse of material or product, other	208	\$1,046,299	\$40,314	0	0	0	0
	Natural condition, other	21	\$37,500	\$17,020	0	0	0	0
	None	3,499	\$229,106,579	\$3,862,753	4	0	3	9
	Operational deficiency, other	73	\$236,950	\$38,800	0	0	0	0
	Other factor contributed to ignition	634	\$105,794,118	\$100,597,202	1	0	1	1
	Outside/open fire for debris or waste disposal	11	\$21,001	\$2,101	0	0	0	0

## Vehicle Fires By Cause, 2003-2007

<u>Incident Year</u>	<u>Primary Factor Contributing To Ignition</u>	<u>Incident Count</u>	<u>Property Losses</u>	<u>Contents Losses</u>	<u>Fire Service Injuries</u>	<u>Fire Service Deaths</u>	<u>Civilian Injuries</u>	<u>Civilian Deaths</u>
	Outside/open fire for warming or cooking	2	\$4,000	\$1,000	0	0	0	0
	Playing with heat source	31	\$425,945	\$12,601	0	0	0	0
	Rekindle	7	\$5,000	\$0	0	0	0	0
	Short circuit arc from defective, worn insulation	155	\$884,461	\$34,504	0	0	3	0
	Short circuit arc from mechanical damage	107	\$283,900	\$17,901	0	0	1	0
	Storm	2	\$15,000	\$1,000	0	0	0	0
	Undetermined	2,802	\$17,255,301	\$1,923,864	2	0	4	6
	Unspecified short-circuit arc	350	\$2,284,218	\$112,660	0	0	1	0
	Washing part, painting with flammable liquid	4	\$32,600	\$0	0	0	0	0
	Water caused short-circuit arc	4	\$6,000	\$3,000	0	0	0	0
	Worn out	212	\$771,799	\$558,313	0	0	0	0
<b>2007</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>13,438</b>	<b>\$392,486,771</b>	<b>\$112,516,914</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>23</b>
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>68,988</b>	<b>\$682,380,468</b>	<b>\$141,206,344</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>125</b>

The data contained in this report comes from the State Fire Marshal's California All Incident Reporting System (CAIRS) data warehouse. Property and contents loss figures, if included herein, are estimates only. These emergency incident statistics, including injury and death counts, are based only upon information submitted to the State Fire Marshal by participating California fire departments. Please note that apparent variations in incident counts and associated losses shown in this report may be solely due to fluctuations in the amount of data submitted to the State Fire Marshal. And while the incoming data is validated according to logical data rules, individual data elements are not always verified for accuracy.